[illegible]

[illegible]

Characterisitcs of a saintly devotee

20. A saintly devotee (*sajjana*) is *amānī* (devoid of any expectation for honor)

—[illegible]

— Oṁ Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīmad Bhakti-siddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda

[illegible]

The *sādhus* (saintly persons) bestow honor upon all, and thus, they themselves remain *amānī*—without any desire for honor.

[illegible]

A Vaiṣṇava offers respect to everyone, yet remains *amānī*, expecting no respect in return.

[illegible]

The conditioned souls of this world, being afflicted by material deficiencies and thirsty for prestige, constantly seek recognition and honor from others.

[illegible]

Without receiving offerings and praise, their hunger for distinction remains unsatisfied.

[illegible]

However, those devoid of Vaiṣṇava qualities cannot reciprocate the honor they receive from true devotees, for they themselves are incapable of offering genuine respect.

[illegible]

A Vaiṣṇava, on the other hand, not only grants honor freely but also completely renounces the expectation of being honored in return. This selfless disposition is the hallmark of true saintliness—giving without seeking, respecting without expecting.

[illegible]

Vaiṣṇavas Are Devoid of False Ego

In this transient material world, the conditioned living entity is tightly bound by various false identifications. He mistakenly perceives his gross and subtle bodies as his very self and becomes entangled in their illusory designations.

However, a Vaiṣṇava, being Kṛṣṇa-conscious, perceives both these bodies as distinct from the eternal self.

Thus, he remains completely free from the false ego arising from both these bodies namely, gross body and subtle body. He remains far away from the pride arising from high birth, physical beauty, erudition, or any other material distinction.

Both the gross and subtle realms exist within the domain of *māyā*, and within them, only the dense darkness of false ego prevails.

But a true Vaiṣṇava remains untouched by this ignorance—his sole identification is that of being the eternal servant of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

In the Transcendental Vaikuṇṭha Realm, There Is No Illusory Pride

In the *aprākṛta* (transcendental) Vaikuṇṭha realm, material ego finds no existence. Where *hari-bhakti* (devotional service to Śrī Hari) is present, there one finds *kṛṣṇa-sanmukhatā* (a state of being turned toward Kṛṣṇa). Conversely, where *hari-bhakti* is absent, there *kṛṣṇa-vimukhatā* (a state of being turned away from Kṛṣṇa) reigns supreme—this very material ego is what shackles the conditioned soul.

[illegible]

Therefore, Vaiṣṇavas, being fully surrendered to *hari-bhakti*, remain completely beyond the grasp of both gross and subtle material identifications. They offer respect to others but do not seek honor for themselves. For *sajjana* (saintly personalities), worldly prestige is an utterly insignificant thing.